THE BHARAT SCOUTS & GUIDES BULLETIN

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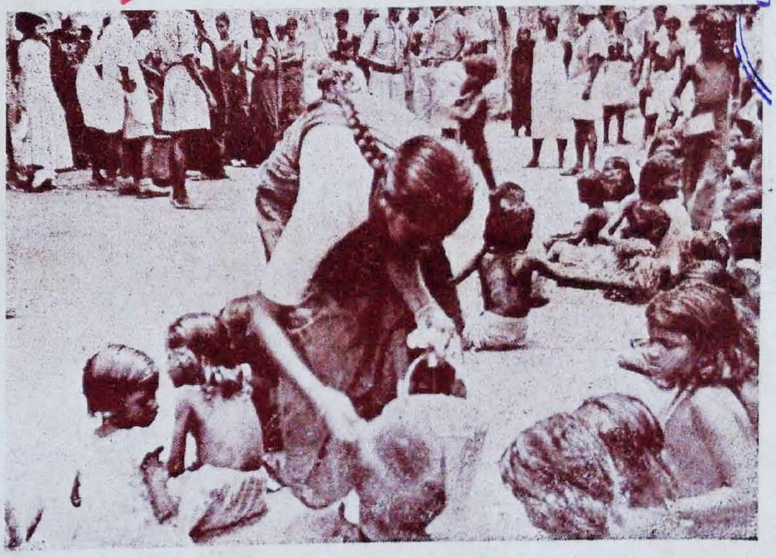
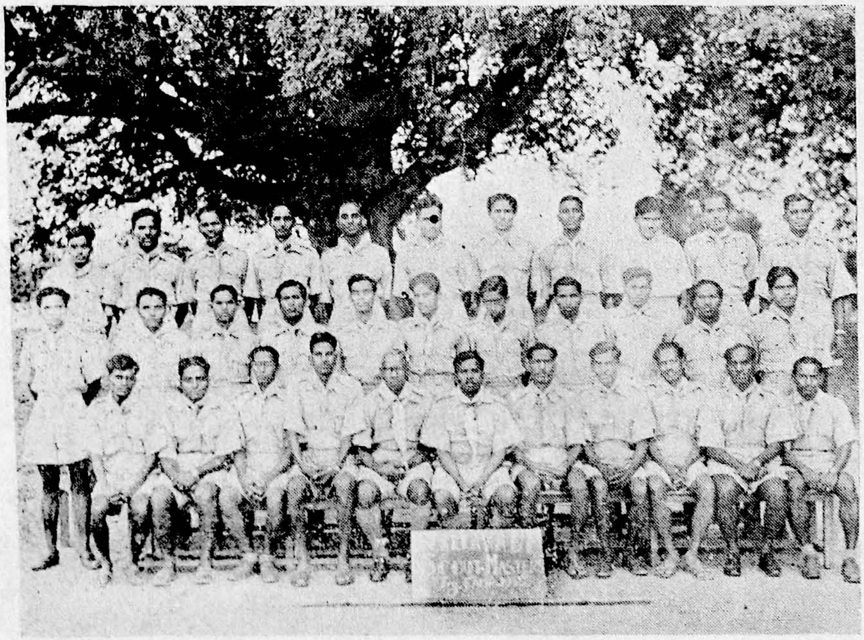
Rural Service Camp



Guides of Salem, distribute conjee to poor Children

JULY 1955

Scoutmasters' Camp



Mallavadi

THE
BHARAT SCOUTS & GUIDES
BULLETIN
MADRAS STATE
(Approved by the Director of Public Instruction, Madras)

VOL. 6 JULY 1955 NO. 3

OURSELVES

International Scout Jamboree at Canada

WE are glad to note that the six Scouts with the required qualifications of First Class, Bharat Scouts and Proficiency badges have been recommended to the Government for approval from our State. It has been a difficult matter to find six Scouts fit to join the Indian Contingent. But when efforts were made we were able to get not only six but two more who are on the waiting list It is hoped that all the six Scouts will be selected to represent Madras State. This is the first time that financial help has been offered by the Government to enable poor and deserving Scouts to attend the International Jamboree.

Rural Service Camps

The successful completion of 20 and more youth camps marks one more mile-stone in the progress of our organisation. This is the first time we put 3,000 Scouts and Guides on this work. I must say they have done very well and brought credit to our Organisation and benefit to themselves. This year 10,000 Scouts will be put on this work and already there is a request from the National Extension Service Department for taking up this work. Fuller reports are not yet available from the Districts. We hope to publish a consolidated report of all these Camps with illustrations.

Pakistan Rover Scouts

We had the pleasure of the visit of Rover Scouts of Pakistan to our Headquarters on their return from Ceylon after attending the Rover Scout Moot at Kandy. They are a fine lot. We entertained them at State Headquarters to Tea when our State Chief Commissioner Sri K. Venkataswami Naidu, welcomed them and in doing so said that the Scout Organisation is a great force in 'cementing the feelings of the peoples' of various countries and paving the way for International brotherhood and amity. Sri V. S. Ratnasabapathy presided over the Camp fire programme given by the Shivaji Scouts and Guides at Mylapore in their beautiful Headquarters 'Shivner' when the Pakistan Rovers also joined in entertaining the group. The leader Sri Syed Shamim Ahmed spoke in appreciative terms of the hospitality offered to them here and said that they were carrying with them happy recollections of their visit to Madras and finally invited our Scouts to visit Pakistan.

Our Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of our State Association will be held on the 27th and 28th of August 1955. It is proposed to hold a Conference of workers on 27th August when among other important matters, Rural service Camps by our Scouts and Guides will be considered in all details based on the experience gained during the recent camps.

Mahamakham Service

Steps are being taken already to gather 800 to 1000 Scouts to render service at the Mahamakham at Kumbakonam in February. The Conference that was held in connection with this was of a truly representative

character. Mr. K. S. Seshadry, the Director of the Service is making every arrangements necessary for the purpose. In this connection the Deputy Minister for Railway Sri O. V. Alagesan was met by the State Secretary and Mr. Seshadry and Mr. M. Rajagopalan as well as Sri A. Y. S. Parisutha Nadar, M. L. A. District Commissioner Tanjore, at Tanjore for the issue of free passes to Scouts taking part in the service. The usual 50% concession will always be available.

Our Chief Visitors

We expect our National Commissioner, Dr. Hridaynath Kunzru to visit our State towards the end of this month, when he goes to address the Staff College in Ooty. Dr. Kunzru will spend a day in Madras and another day in Coimbatore when he will see Scouts and Guides and Officers. Dame Leslie Whately, Director of World Bureau of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides will also pay a visit to Madras State in October next. Details will be made available to the respective Districts in due course.

Editor

THE HIMALAYA WOOD BADGE

(1955)—Questions

THE HIMALAYA SCOUT WOOD BADGE

1. "The Boy Scouts is a Movement, not just an organisation". (B.P.) What do you understand by it, and how would you explain it to a Lay man?

2. "Remember that the boy on joining want to begin Scouting right away." (S.B.I.) What steps do you take in your Troop to justify the above statement?

3. "No boy is a Scout unless he does his best to keep the Scout Promise". (S.B.I.) What opportunities does the boy get in your Troops to encourage him to carry it out?

4. How do you interpret the 4th Scout Law to a Scout, and impress upon him its world-wide brotherhood aspect?

5. What do you understand by "Woodcraft"? In what way do you use it in your Troop programmes?

6. "The Camp is what the boy looks forward to and is the Scoutmaster's great opportunity". (S.B.I.) How do you carry this out in practice?

7. "Present Scouting is more physical training rather than character building". Do you agree with statement or not? Give reasons and also suggestions for improvement.

8. "Patrol Leaders are not trained leaders but leaders under training." What steps do you take to ensure this?

9. "Games are one of the most valuable aids in training Scouts, both mentally and physically"

(a) What types of games the Scouts of your Troop play?

(b) Give with details one of each of the following:—

(i) A Troop game.
(ii) A Wide game.
(iii) A Test game.
(iv) An indigenous Indian game played by your Scouts.

10. "Badge system properly applied provides natural and encouraging sequence for progress of

each Scout". What do you understand by it and how do you apply it in your Troop?

11. "Lack of finance often creates difficulties for Scouts to carry out their programmes". What different methods do you adopt to raise funds for your Troop?

12. "The Court of Honour decides rewards, punishments, programmes of work, camps and other questions affecting troop management". (S.B.I.) Give the proceedings of at least 2 meetings of the Court of Honour of your Troop in which the following was discussed and decided:

(a) Half yearly programme of Troop meetings and other activities

(b) The Annual Camp.

13. How would you deal with the following cases:—

(a) A Scout often absents himself from Troop meetings

(b) A Scout attends meetings without uniform.

14. How far has your Troop influenced other boys' organisations in your locality or vice versa. What special steps have you taken in this regard.

15. Here is your opportunity to discuss your problem as a Scouter. Use two to three pages for this purpose

S.I B.—Scouting for Boys in India.

DIARY OF PRINCIPAL WORLD EVENTS

Guide Section

1.	29th June to 8th July 1955	National Girl Guide Camp at Dalkarlsbo—Sweden.
2.	18th to 26th August 1955	Browine Guiders' Training Camp at Foxlease—London.
3.	September 1955	European Area } International Commissioners' Conference
	1956	Asian Countries } International Commissioners' Conference
	1957	Western Hemisphere } International Commissioners' Conference
4.	1957	Sixteenth World Conference (Guides) Brazil.
5.	1957	The Centenary of B. P and the World Camp (Guides)
6.	1960	Seventeenth World Conference (Guides)

Scout Section

1.	27th July to 16th Aug. 1955	Second London International Patrol Camp—(London)
2.	18th Aug. to 28th Aug. 1955	EIGHTH WORLD JAMBOREE—CANADA
3.	28th Aug. to 31st Aug. 1955	Fifteenth International Scout Conference (Canada)
4.	29th Dec 55 to 9th Jan. 1956	Pan Pacific Regional Jamboree Melbourne—Victoria
5.	Nov 1955 Feb. 1956	Mr. Percy Sibold (Boy Scouts International Bureau) touring Asia.
6.	1956	Indaba in Holland
7.	1957	The Centenary of B. P. The Jubilee of Scouting.

'B. S. G. Journal'

FOR

SCOUTING BOOKS & EQUIPMENT

K. KASINATH

MAIL ORDER AGENCY

P. O. BASVANGUDI BANGALORE-4.

Bharat Scouts & Guides, Kumbakonam

MAHAMAHAM SCOUT SERVICE

Conference of Commissioners & Secretaries held on 26-6-55 at Town High School

AT a conference of representatives from Nilgiris, Coimbatore, South Malabar, Madura, Ramnad, Tanjore East, Tanjore West and South Arcot, it was decided to run a service camp during Mahamaham in Feb. 1956. The meeting was presided over by Mr. V. S. Rathnasabapathy, State Secretary Bharat Scouts and Guides, Madras. After a welcome address by Mr. V. Raghava Iyengar, Chairman of the Executive, Messrs M. Rajagopal, State Organising Commissioner and K. S. Seshadri, Asst. State Commissioner addressed the gathering with particular reference to the arrangements to be made for Mahamaham. Mr K. S. Seshadri was nominated as the Director of Scouts and Guides and the details of arrangements of camp Commandants, Assistants etc. were planned.

It was decided to run a camp from 20th to 27th Feb. '56. The local scouts will be attending the camp from 20th till 27th. Scouts, guides, scouters, guiders, rovers etc. from moffusil will assemble at the camp site on the evening of 23rd of Feb. '56 and be in camp till 27th. Details of different types of services were gone through and it was decided to collect at least 800 scouts and 100 guides from various parts of the State and the representatives from the Districts were requested to give the approximate number of scouts and guides and other officers that may be going cver to Kumbakonam for service before 31-7-55 It was decided that non-scouters should not be allowed to attend the camp and in case if non-scouters are asked to participate in our service camp, our association may confine itself to specific activities.

The scouts, rovers and others participating in the camp will have free boarding and lodging. But they will have to meet their train fare and other incidental charges to reach Kumbakonam.

The Local Scout Association has been entrusted with the responsibility of running the service camp. A committee consisting of representatives of Tanjore East, Tanjore West will be formed to attend to other details.

A service camp to be run at Town High School for scouts and at Saraswathi Patasala for guides.

The question of type of badges for the camp to be used was discussed and the matter was left to the committee to decide the emblem etc.

Regarding finance it was planned that 4 or preferably even 5 benefit performances in several important towns of Tanjore Dist. be run to gather sufficient amount for running the camp. Representatives from Tanjore, Kumbakonam, Mayavaram and Negapatam accepted to take the responsibility of running the benefit performances at their places.

Regarding help from other Districts for finance, it was decided that the representatives of other Dists. will contact public institutions like, Companies, Banks etc. and try to gather as much as possible. The Districts were also requested to co-operate in gathering number of advertisements for the Guide book to be published by the Association.

With regard to co-operation with other organisations. Circle Inspector Mr. Sama Rao addressed the gathering and police have promised to give as much help as possible in taking their help in Bandobust arrangements at all centres.

K. S. SESHADRI,
Asst. State Commissioner.

Rural Service by Scouts and Guides

A HIGH ADVENTURE

THE Rural Service Camps by Scouts and Guides organised by the Bharat Scouts and Guides, Madras State in Malabar District and in Chingleput District have proved a high adventure to our lads.

The Planning Commission of the Government of India had rightly visualised the scheme of manual work and social work service by the boys and girls in the Five Year Plan. Taking advantage of the suggestion a Camp for 200 Scouts and non-Scouts was organised under the Community Project Scheme, Palghat from 13th October 1953 to 27th October 1953. The work done by the Campers with great enthusiasm was as follows:-

1. Constructing Cutcha Roads to the extent of 4½ miles. 2. Dibbling sesbania seeds (green manure) on 50 acres of paddy fields. 3. Planting 6000 glyricidia seedlings. 4. Cleaning an old village tank 5. Digging 115 pits for the manufacture of compost. 6. Construction of 4 soak-pit for urinal 7. Filling up of an unused well in the middle of the village street. 8. Opening and conducting 2 Adult-Education centres and initiating about 73 village adults into the scheme.

The villagers themselves came forward without any distinction of caste or status and joined our Scouts in our endeavour to carry out the programme of work given above. An influential Village Committee attended to mess, accommodation and other arrangements.

Our State Chief Commissioner, Sri K. Venkataswami Naidu declared the camp open and we had the hearty co-operation of the Block Development Officers and other Officials.

Another Camp was held in Vadavannur from 23-12-1953 to 5-1-1954 under the auspices of the District Bharat Scouts and Guides, South Malabar, in collaboration with the Community Project Department at Palghat. There were 321 Scouts and non-Scouts in the Camp and their work during the period may be summarised, as follows:-

1. New roads constructed and old roads repaired—4 miles. 2 Compost pits dug, standard and small sizes (more than half the number) 244. (118 plus 126) 3. Glyricidia planted 3,000 4. Bathing tanks cleaned 5 5. Cocanut seedlings planted 200 6. Sanitation drive:- Temple premises and approach road cleaned, one. 7. Number of adults initiated into the Social Education, 181 8. Villagers' contribution (in terms of cash)-Voluntary gift of land for construction of new roads: Rs. 1,980 Manual Labour supplied Rs 951 2,931.

We had also here the co-operation of students and young men of the village as well as the representatives of the village labour in our work. This Camp was visited by His Excellency Shri Sri Prakasa, Governor of Madras. He exhorted all boys and girls to join the Scout Movement in large numbers and praised the good work of the Scouts at these Camps.

Two similar camps were taken up in Chingleput District one at Tirukalikundaram by 300 Scouts where the boys made a road to a distance of three miles in co-operation with the Block Development Officers, a road leading to the Tirukalikundaram-Sadras highway, to the joy of the villagers from 4th May to 24th May 1954. This camp which was inaugurated by Sri C Subramaniam, Minister for Education on 4th May 1954, went on for 21 days. Summer in this part of the country is relentless and the students were unused to manual labour ; yet with the zeal and will to work known only to Scouts, as their only protection and shade against the scorching sun's oppresive heat, this enthusiastic young band of Scout workers were able to complete the task assigned to them, 3 miles of earth road within 3 weeks' time. The newly constructed road goes through paddy fields, vegetable gardens, rock-imbedded lands and among hillocks.

Fifteen feet wide and with 2 feet by 1 foot drainage on either side. This is an achievement of which our Association can take a legitimate pride.

Besides this work the Scouts had a regular programme of Camp from morning six to ten at night every day which included Recreational activities, Games and Camp-fires.

The closing function was attended by Sri M. A. Manickavelu Naicker and speaking on the occasion, he said "The reward for your work does not lie in the amount of money spent by the Government for the Camp nor the certificate issued to you after the closing of the camp. But it does in the spontaneous joy that you derive when you visit this scene of your boyhood toil, on a later day and see your fellow citizens using this road. You derive satisfaction and inspiration when you think "This is the road that I have constructed with my own hands and at the sweat of my brow". He also said the spirit with which you have done the work will create a deep impression in the minds of the villagers that manual labour is not alien to educated towns-men.

Another Camp was held by another set of 300 Scouts and Guides at Senji village 3 miles from Kadambathur in Trivellore Taluk in the matter of renovating a neglected irrigation tank in the village on May 14th 1954. Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Community Projects and National Extension Services inaugurated this camp. He praised the efforts of the Scouts and said it will serve as an inspiration to the villagers in the matter of self-help.

At the conclusion of the work Mr. C Subramanyam, Minister for Finance and Education, an eye witness to this fine endeavour said that this service by our Scouts was not a small one, it was a very very big one, they were building a New India.

I am inclined to state, judging from the experience gained that the Association of the Bharat Scouts and Guides, Madras State has in a humble measure, given a helping hand to build a New Country under the Five Year Plan. This opportunity has enabled us to impart good training in community Service for boys and girls.

To come into touch with the village people and identify themselves with them and their life.

To learn the needs and requirements of the villagers and how to co-operate with the villagers in providing them.

And to erase the distinction that exists between the villager and the town-bred, educated, uneducated, etc.

Our boys learnt to appreciate the dignity of labour and the joy that comes out of self-effort. In our opinion this is practical education and real training in true citizenship.

Encouraged by the good results of these Rural Camps held in two Districts we have planned this year (1955-56) for more Rural Service Camps by Scouts in most of the Districts in the State and have run so far 16 Camps at which 3000 Scouts and Guides took part. This is the first time, the Bharat Scouts and Guides, Madras State, put such a large number of Scouts on this work of Rural Welfare. The following will give the details of the centres where our boys worked and the nature of work undertaken in the respective Districts.

Sl. No.	Area	Centre of work	Nature of work	No. of Campers	Dist. Commrs.	Org. Commissioner
	Western Division: Sri V. C. Subbiah Gownder, A. S. C.					
1.	Coimbatore	(a) Kallipatti (b) Kugalur & (c) Thookanaic-kenpalayam	Construction of a School Bldg. and Road making	350	Sri T. R. Sundaram Pillai	Sri J. I. Muthiah
2.	Salem	Kattukottai	Road making	300	Sri S. V. Lakshmanan	do.
	Southern Division: Sri K. S. Seshadry A S C.					
3.	Mathurai	(a) Villur and (b) Maravapatti	Road making	300	Dr. K. G. Ramabadran	Sri M. Raja-gopalan
4.	Ramanathapuram	Vembattur and Kalloorani	Improving Village Tank	60	Mr. P. Soma-sundaram	do.
5.	South Arcot	Thiruvamur	Road making	95	Dr. V. Krishna-murthy	do.
	Central Division: Sri T R. Kothandaram Mudaliar, A. S C.					
6.	North Arcot	(a) Mallavadi & (b) Thirumalai	Road making	400	Rao Bahadur C. Doraiswamiah	Sri M. Ram Mohan
7.	Chingleput South	(a) Vengampak-kam & (b) Kuli-pandalam	Road making, mud huts; & Houses white-washing	400	Sri R. Messiah Doss	do.
8.	Chingleput North	Perambakkam	Road making	120	Sri C. V. Naidu	do.
9.		Vengalathur	Road making, & digging of com-post pits	140	Sri C. S Natesa Mudaliar	do.
10.		Pisattur	Road making & digging of com-post and manure pits	100	do.	do.
11.		Kakalur	Road making & renovation of houses	110	Sri C.V.Naidu	do.
12.		Vishnuvakkam	Road making	120	do.	do.
13.		Pannur	Mud houses white-washing & paint-ing, Road making open air theatre	125	Sri V. Thiaga-raja Pillai	do.
14.		Vidayoor	Road making	100	do.	do.
15.		Uthukkottai	Digging of com-post and manure pits, Road making	120	Sri C. S Natesa Mudaliar	do.
16. + 5	Sub Camps	Periyapalayam	Road making and mud houses	160	Sri C. S Natesa Mudaliar.	do.

Perhaps this is the only Youth Organisation in the State which took the responsibility of taking up such a large scale project. But the good results achieved have more than justified the step. Being summer months the boys have to naturally work in the hot sun; besides this, the sudden storm and down pour of rain that over took us all over the State blew off our temporary sheds put up for accommodation, and boys rendered homeless, for a day or so. This gave an opportunity for the villagers to come forward and offer shelter and hospitality. Each home took a few boys in, under their roof and gave them all comforts. Though this was unexpected it had its salutary effect. The boys were drawn closer to the villagers, with the result that they became part of the village people themselves, fostering a healthy family spirit

At some places inspite of this hardship, boys had to face the risk of poisonous reptiles creeping into their shelters. But our boys showed a remarkable spirit of bravery and cheerfulness and none of the boys will agree to go back home leaving the work unfinished, truly characteristic of Scouts.

The Guides in their turn rendered valuable service to the various homes in the villages, by distributing milk to children, treating minor ailments, etc., cleaning the surroundings of the cheries and helping to whitewash the houses, in which the villagers co-operated heartily.

In the case of some of the vilages, the villagers entertained the boys on the last day and invited them to come again for another project in the coming year if not earlier,

Sri K. Kamaraj Nadar, Chief Minister of Madras inaugurated the Summer Camps this year on 19th April 1955 at State Headquarters, and in doing so he said that such Camps enabled Scouts and Guides to realise the value of self help and dignity of labour.

He praised the work done by the Scouts during the last summer and remarked that in olden days people worked with pleasure and labour was respected. But nowadays people worked only to earn a living and those who did manual work were looked down upon and that there should be a change in such a mentality.

His Excellency the Governor in his message said the noble endeavours of Bharat Scouts and Guides deserved admiration and gratitude.

His Excellency vistited our Camp in Coimbatore District near Gobichettipalayam on 16th May 1955 and expressed satisfaction of the good work done by our Scouts.

Sri M. A Manickavelu, Minister for Revenue opened the newly constructed 2½ miles long road connecting Vadamadimangalam and Thirumalai in Polur, Taluk on 1st June 1955 and appreciated the earnestness with which the Scouts had done their task.

Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam. Minister for Agriculture inaugurated the Camp at Villur in Tirumangalam Block, Mathurai District on 3rd May 1955 where our Scouts made a road 3½ miles distance connecting Maravapatti with Villur.

The Camps went off uninterrupted and concluded as scheduled.

In the coming year, we hope to put 10,000 Scouts on this "Nation Building Activity". We are happy our Scouts and Guides are contributing their mite. in this great National endeavour. They are gaining also very useful experience, which will stand them in good stead in the future, when they are men and women.

V S. RATNASABHAPATHY,
State Secretary

The Story of Indian Youth Hostels

What is a Youth Hostel, Mr. Padki ?

A Good holiday home for travelling youths where simple sleeping accommodation is provided and is mainly intended for tourists. It exists to help young people to know and love the conntryside

Could you tell me, Mr. Padki, how this idea of a Youth Hostel dawned, when and where ?

It was in Germany, in the year 1900 one schoolmaster, Mr. Richard Shermann had conceived of the idea and had started the first Youth Hostel in Altena, a small town. And it took ten complete years for the idea to bear fruit. The German Hostels Association was formed, the first in the world, in 1919

Who was the spirit behind the introduction of Youth Hostels in India, please tell me Mr. Padki ?

One Prof. W. G. Eagleton of the Mysore University who had visited some Youth Hostels abroad. He had convened a meeting of all persons interested in Youth Welfare activities in the year 1949 and had placed before them the proposals about starting a Youth Hostels Association for India and invited their suggestions. Every one welcomed the proposals for such a movement which would play a great role in widening the horizon of present-day youth making them feel the oneness and greatness of their country.

What is the Object of the Youth Hostels Association ?

The object shall be to help all, especially young people, of limited means, to a greater knowledge, love and care of the countryside, particularly by providing hostels or other simple accommodation for them on their travels and thus promote their health, rest and education.

How did you come in contact with this movement, Mr. Padki ?

For 8 years, I had been working with the Scout movement organising hikes and cycling camps etc. I was the District Organising Secretary of the Adult Education Council of the Mysore State of which Prof. Eagleton was the Vice-President. As he found in me a sort of inclination and aptitude for Youth Welfare activities, he chose me to be the first Secretary of the Indian Youth Hostels Association.

Which was the first Youth Hostel in India ?

One Youth Hostel at Taradevi, the Scout Centre in the Simla Hills, which was donated by Mr. Goad, was functioning even before the starting of the Youth Hostels Association of India. But sentimentally, the first Youth Hostel in India was that which was organised by the University of Mysore.

How many Youth Hostels are there in India, Mr. Padki, and which is the prettiest and the most ideal one ?

There are, apart from Dak Bungalows, 90 Youth Hostels in India to-day. And the palm should go, to Taradevi (near Simla) for it is the prettiest and the most ideal of Youth Hostels in India.

Could you tell me the contribution of Mr. Catchpool in building up Youth Hostels Association of India ?

Oh! It is difficult to assess adequately what Mr. Catchpool had done and has been doing for this movement You know, he is a dedicated Quaker, member of the Society of Friends who has since 1951 been in charge of the Delhi Quaker Centre. Besides he was Vice-President for many years of the International Youth Hostels Association and is fired with enthusiasm for Youth Hostel work. In short, he is the cornerstone of the proposed great edifice in this country The Youth Hostels Association of India would have been greatly handicapped if Mr Catchpool's co-operation and hand of assistance were not forthcoming He was responsible for the compilation and publication of the Hand Book of Youth Hostels Association of India, available from the Youth Hostels Association of India, Mehrauli P.O., New Delhi

Has the Ministry of Education of the Government of India been helping you in any way ?

This year the Ministry of Education has sanctioned us a grant of Rs. 8,000 for administrative purposes. They have issued instructions, it is understood, that every

Indian student who proceeds abroad on the Government of India scholarship should study the working of the Youth Hostel movement in that country by closely associating himself with it. Mr. Sondhi, the Youth Welfare Adviser to the Government of India, Ministry of Education, has been associated with Youth Hostels Association of India and has rendered us immense help, besides giving us the inspiration of his buoyant personality.

What was the response in the Mysore State?

Why, the response was encouraging. That is why we could proceed with the gigantic task of organising a network of Youth Hostels all through the country. People's moral support was there though not financial. But, I hope this attitude will change and we may in future, expect financial help too from them, as they are getting to realise the significant role of the Youth Hostels Association in building up a healthy nation.

What sort of help do you expect from public institutions and the Government?

We wish that all State Governments follow West Bengal in allowing us to use their Dak Bungalows, Forest Houses, etc. The State Governments may also help by sanctioning grants and public institutions, by co-operating with us in organising Youth Hostels.

What are your immediate problems, Mr Padki?

Well it is a vicious circle. We don't have proper publicity. The youth of India should be told about the Youth Hostels Association and induced to enroll themselves as members and collect donations for this noble cause This solves the problems of means and workers also. It costs only Rs. 3/- per year to become a member; we give a list of Hostels to all who become members. They should apply to me at Youth Hostels Association of India, Mehrauli P O. New Delhi.

Which are the States coming forward enthusiastically and showing good record of work?

Mysore, Bombay, Bengal, Kashmir and Saurashtra take the lead in all respects. We have already constituted Regional Councils for Bombay, Mysore and Saurashtra, and West Bengal is shortly going to have the regional council. After this we want to take up Uttar Pradesh and Kashmir.

I wish to record some of your continental tour impresions, Mr. Padki. Could you kindly tell me about this journey?

Then let me quote from my own report to the UNESCO – "It was with a heavy heart that I bade goodbye to Europe that had enriched my experience and enlarged my circle of friends. All through the return journey I was dreaming of the days when the Youth Hostels Association of India could play such a vital role in providing such healthy recreational facilities to the youths in these countries. I was ruminating over the many possibilities and prospects and the way I could and should put my rich experience to fruitful service of the Youth Hostel movement in particular, and the youth movements in general. A day in a Youth Hostel is an experience worth having. There are hostels accommodating from four persons to 700 persons but the striking feature is the maintenance of that same homeliness. They feel that the Youth Hostel belongs to them and they belong to the Youth Hostel Spending their week-end at a Youth Hostel has been a sort of custom with them. The Youth Hostels are so popular there that the membership is very striking -- my goodness, some millions!

What is the furure of the movement in India, Mr Padki?

Well, hostelling is not new to India. In ancient times our people used to undertake pilgrimages by stages, spending their nights at Dharmshalas. So it is not difficult to popularise the movement in India. Our target for membership this year is 1000 and we hope to reach it.

"Youth Hostels movement is a great institution in other countries. The Editor had the pleasure of staying in one of those Hostels in Denmark Now that we have an Indian Association with its Headquarters at Delhi, we are asked to organise a regional council at Madras and to closely associate it with our Scout and Guide work here. Steps are being taken to organise this Our Coonoor Camping Centre will be the nucleus of a ring of Youth Hostels to be started in the State".

Editor

ON BOY SCOUTS

A Scout in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh stopped a pick-pocket who was making away with a purse containing Rs. 5000 belonging to a helpless Japanese tourist The kind lady full of appreciation of his deed handed him crisp notes to which the lad replied apologetically: "Madam, my duty is only to serve", This incident may pass off lightly but it has won the gratitude of a visitor to this country, and raised its prestige.

It might be as well to mention here that Indian Scouting can be said to have come into its own first after Dr. Annie Besant and Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya had opened its doors to Indian boys by 1910. The following years, Girl Guides were also started. In 1922 when the father of the movement, Baden-Powell, came to India he tried to unite various scouts' organisations in the country into one, and affiliate this with the Headquarters in London. By 1933 scouting in our country was well on its way and the Central Organisation had started functioning In 1935, the all-India Boy Scouts Association dissociated itself from the Headquarters. It not only revised its policy, organisation, rules. etc, but also made the training suitable to local conditions and Indian culture. After some time the need for reuniting all the Scouts Associations was felt again as many more had emerged in the country. A group of associations formed themselves into the Hindustan Scouts Association in 1939. Then for many years the Boy Scouts Association and the Girl Guides Association in India worked side by side in different States.

On the day of India's independence the Boy Scouts Association changed the promise, its terms and conditions by deleting "duty to the King". In 1950 the BSA of India and the Hindustan Soouts Association were amalgamated into Bharat Scouts and Guides. Three years later a new Scout Association for boys sprang up and was registered in Delhi. To day India has nearly five lakhs Scouts the third largest member in the International Scout world.

Voluntary Services

Boy Scouts in India are following variou projects to help the community and the country. These voluntary services are a real boon to any nation and thus probably we will have the largest voluntary corps dedicated to these ideals.

The summer heat did not parch the throats of 300 boys who were determined to lay a road over 4½ miles near Tirukalikundram, Chingleput District in 1954. With little supervision and technical help the road was built in a record time. In Palghat two projects went under way, and 8¾ miles were constructed by two groups of 400 boys each, linking villages by road, arteries, so vital and hitherto served only by the beaten tracks of moving cart-wheels. In the Village Senji, in the South, an irrigation tank was renvovated, which brings 500 acres under the plough. Everywhere they went, they received warm tributes.

Boy—Girl Partnership

Another achievement was that the Senji camp gave lessons in boy-girl partnership, which until now was a 'dream' labelled as 'unrealistic'. The success of that stupendous experiment was due to the forethought of the organisers and the general co-operation of all participating teenagers. Bubbling with enthusiasm, these lads allotted the manual part of the work to themselves, leaving the girls other jobs like the 'lady with the lamp'. These girls swept the roads, cleansed the vessels, washed all the village children, clothed them as best as they could, rendered first-aid service, carried on adult education and other instructional classes etc. They did not merely 'do' the work but taught them 'how' it should be done.

This is not all the scouts do. They go to camp, an out-door activity to develop team spirit. Scouts have volunteered to act as guides and have done other work connected with the huge festival at the Kapaliswarar Temple at Madras. They also work in the community project areas, Savings, Adult Education Classes, First-Aid, the Five Year Plan, etc. A scout takes an oath on his country and dharma. He has ten rules to be strictly adhered to, to speak the truth, do a good turn. keep himself pure, and so on. All these have to be followed, with the watchword 'Be prepared' to meet all

situations. The scout passes through 'tender-foot' 'second-class, first-class' 'all-round cords' and the summit of all ambition is the coveted 'Bharat Scout.

Traditions have been built up, as the scouts know their business, and they will rise to Himalayan heights if the occasion demands it of them. Before we think of development, we should increase the strength of the organisation, so that the ideals for which the seed was sown may flower abundantly. It is a ground where the barriers of caste, colour, or creed have little bearing, and the veils which till now shrouded our vision will break into crysta transparency.

So here is the crusader. Donning the khaki uniform and rubber heeled shoes, staff and scarf, he marches on, ever forward. Everyone should help this young but big heart on its mission. Scouting should be considered as a sacred institution and teen-agers should flock and swell the ranks, not only to increase the number of scouts but to prepare the young for greater duties and responsibilities.

'SOCIAL WELFARE'

THE BHARAT SCOUTS AND GUIDES, CHIDAMBARAM

I am glad to report you that I convened a meeting for organising service camp during the recent Mahakumbabishekam. It was decided to run a continued service camp of the Bharat Scouts, Rovers, the N. C. C. of the Annamalai University, the members of the Social Service league and Volunteers from the University, Youth Congress and A.C.C. The camp consisted of about 325. The Camp was run in the house of Dr. Venkatesam Pillai who also kindly arranged for the mess of the campers. The camp lasted between 6th evening to 9th evening. The Camp was inaugurated by Sri T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai, the Vice Chancellor of the Annamalai University. The valedictory function was presided over by S. Ratnasami Chettiar—one of the two gentlemen who donated a large sum for the Thirupani and Kumbabishekam— patron and Vice-President of the local Association

I am glad to report that the service of the Campers and especially of our Scouts and Rovers under the direction of the Scouters and my personal supervision, were appreciated by the public and the authorities.

It is a matter for satisfaction that the District Collector, Sri A. Uthandiraman took very great interest in the camp and presided over some of the meetings. The camp had the co-operation and support of the Revenue officials, the police and the Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University.

S. RAMASWAMY AIYANGAR

"SCOUT TROOPS—HOW TO ORGANISE"
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State Organising Commissioner (Scouts)
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Public (RDP XI) Department

Copy of letter No. F. 1-3/55-D.7, dated Nil, from the Government of India, Ministry of Education, to the Secretaries of all the State Governments :—

Labour & Social Service Camps 55-56

The Government of India have noted with particular satisfaction the response of the Universities/State Governments and recognised Private Organisations which have come forward to organise Labour and Social Service Camps in the various States **In the course of 10 months** since the scheme was launched 404 camps have been conducted throughout the country in which about 40,000 youths have participated. With a larger number of applications pouring in during the current financial year it is anticipated that many more camps will be held in which students will be engaged in varied types of manual activities.

It has however, been observed that in their enthusiasm, an institution or organisation occasionally sends in their proposals through more than one agencies, thereby causing a great deal of confusion. To give an illustration, certain schools and colleges in the Bombay State have submitted their applications for holding youth camps during the summer vacations through the Bombay State Government as well as Bharat Sevak Samaj. But for the vigilance exercised in the Ministry, such applications would have been dealt with twice and separate grants would have been given for one camp, and this would have been highly irregular. It is therefore requested that each institution should send in only one application through one agency, giving full details such as, number of campers duration of camps, work to be undertaken, extent of local co-operation secured, arrangements made for supervision and administration of the camp in order to enable the Government to handle the case with speed and efficiency. All applications for grants should reach the Ministry at least one month in advance of the beginning of a camp.

At present grants are made to the Universities, State Governments and recognised voluntary All India Organisations such as Bharat Sevak Samaj, Bharat Scouts and Guides, etc. No delay accrue in sanctioning grants whether the requests are received through the Universities, State Governments or recognised voluntary organisations. All cases are dealt with expeditiously as the Government are fully aware of the important time factor which determines the success of camps

This note is therefore being sent to all the agencies with the request that they should assist the Government in the execution of their duties by avoiding all duplication of work **The rate of payment for Labour and Social Service Camps is reduced from 2/- to 1/12/- for food and incidentals and railway fare at students concession rate or actual bus fare.**

(True copy)

Endorsement No 3499/55-9, d/- 20th May 1955

Copy communicated to all Collectors (except Collector of Madras) Project Executive Officers, Block Development Officers and the State Secretary, Bharat Scouts and Guides, Madras in continuation of Memo. No 3499, RDP XI/55-8, dated 16-4-55.

N. JAYARAMAN,
Assistant Secretary to Government.

Copy forwarded for information

V S. RATNASABHAPATHY,
State Secretary

Regd. No. M. 4171
Regd. No. M. 4171

A Proud Achievement

The Road made by Scouts of Salem at Kattukkottai

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